

Viplavah

Revolution Through Education

A Journal of the ISKCON Ministry of Education

Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



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MISSION STATEMENT

Vision statement

To provide Krishna conscious education of high quality to everyone through temples, educational institutions and various global initiatives.

Mission statement

To develop comprehensive educational systems globally, that foster higher spiritual values, fulfil the needs of ISKCON members, and the larger society, bringing about excellence in all areas of human life. We aim to fulfil this mission by

1. Empowering and supporting educational initiatives and collaborations among educators, educational institutions and professionals
2. Establishing and monitoring high standards of Vaisnava education
3. Supervising the development and execution of educational plans and ensuring they are delivered to high standards and
4. Understanding and fulfilling the educational needs of the Krsna conscious families
5. Making every temple as an educational centre and a centre of excellence.

MASTHEAD

Viplavah is a Journal of the **Ministry of Education** of the **International Society for Krishna Consciousness**, Founder Acharya His Divine Grace Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Minister of Education: H. G. Sesa Das

Executive Director: Tapan-misra Das

Core Committee: Hanumatpresaka Swami, Sesa Das, Atul-krsna Das, Rama-giri-dhari Das, Tapan-misra Das, Champaka-lata Devi Dasi, Indira-sakhi Devi Dasi,

Executive/Issue Editor: H. H. Hanumatpresaka Swami

Editorial Board:

- H. G. Indira-sakhi Devi Dasi
- H. G. Rama-giridhari Das

The first issue of the Journal was published Janmastami 2017, publishing four issues each year. It is driven out of North American and the Western Hemisphere but is aimed at serving the educational needs of ISKCON globally.

Ministry Web Site: iskconeducation.org

For Correspondences: Secretary, viplavah.iskcon@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

By Hanumatpresaka Swami



It is now 5.16PM (March 4th) in grey, overcast, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We have been threatening, begging, thanking everyone involved in this Issue, including ourselves, to get in their contributions for this number.

How important is education in any society? We remember that even Ravana, King of the Rakshasas, who had one head dedicated to drinking, one

to romance, one to war, also had one dedicated to education. We submit that education is the key to all success in ISKCON's growth and productivity. Of course, we realize that anything in ISKCON is education, it is a Sankirtan movement. So, defining the roles of the **Ministry of Education** at the GBC level, in the intelligence of the Brahmanas, children, Temple Presidents, is always one of our principle challenges. In this issue you will find excellent news from inside the Ministry, and educational initiatives for our communities and others. We hope to hear from our Minister Sesa Das in more detail in the next issue but in a brief note, a few days ago, he gave a precise summary of our workings:

Sesa Das wrote – (Wed, Feb 26)

Hare Krishna. Thank you for your continued work. In response I can say that we need to have a conference call. Tapan Mishra Prabhu did a wonderful job in getting together and putting on the *Second International Education Symposium*. So good to catch up on good news, but we also have some things not going so well that need to be discussed.

INTERFAITH DIALOG




By Thomas Brown PhD (candidate)

“In this age of a godless civilization, the sages of world-recognized religious sects who believe in God must come out of their secluded places and preach the science of God, the Supreme Will, to the people in general. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and the members of the other sects that have convincing faith in the authority of God must not sit idly now and silently watch the rapid growth of a godless civilization. There is the supreme will of God, and no nation or society can live in peace and prosperity without acceptance of this vital truth.”, Light of the Bhagavata, (Text Six) (<https://vedabase.io/en/library/lob/6/#bb1582335>)

At the beginning of this year, 28th January, 2020, we had the very gratifying experience of sitting with


Professor Ronald A. Messier (<http://www.ronmessier.com/>), a profound scholar of Islamic studies here in the USA. For over two hours we discussed many topics on academic and cultural themes, and how to do good for people in the modern world. Of course, this very much relates to the citation from Srila Prabhupada given at the start of this article. How can we understand people of different religious traditions and then learn to work together for this common good?

We hope this topic of Interfaith Dialog and related cross-cultural alliances becomes a strong feature of Viplavah in the future, so please read and respond.



One thing we especially wanted from Professor Messier was a reading list of books and media that can inform our readers about what is Islam. Much of this first bibliography is from the perspective of Muslim-Christian dialog, but we feel that the industrialization that has become a predominating world-view is very much related to the world-view embedded in Protestant Christianity. Thus the education we can get from the Muslim-Christian dialog will have great utility for people for Hindu, Buddhist, native American and Australian traditions that are now capable of seeing things from this industrialized point of view. Agree? All the books and the video are available from Amazon.com.

- *Faithful Neighbors: Christian-Muslim Vision and Practice*, Robert S. Heaney. Based on the strong, on-going work of the Center for Anglican Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary, Faithful Neighbors outlines an introduction to the rationale for interfaith work through both theological and practical viewpoints, using stories from real experiences of interfaith cooperation to offer encouragement, inspiration, and practical steps to do the same. Professor Messier gives it 5/5-stars and suggests it as the resource for understanding the necessity of interfaith dialog.
- *Jesus: One Man, Two Faiths*. Expanded Second Edition: A Dialogue between Christians and Muslims, Ron Messier. Jesus, One Man Two Faiths explores a wide range of views within each



faith that can be supported by what each faith considers to be its revealed scriptures and traditions. It explores Jesus' birth, his life as a perfect servant, his miracles, the events of Good Friday and Easter, the Ascension to heaven, and Jesus coming again at the end of time. One discovers not only similarities, some of which are quite surprising, but also differences that are more often complementary than contradictory, inviting believers in each faith to reflect on their own images of Jesus and, perhaps, expand those images in light of what the other has to offer.

- *A New Introduction to Islam*, Daniel W. Brown. A basic introduction to Islam. Professor says 5/5-stars
- *Jesus and Muhammad: Commonalities of Two Great Religions*, Daniel Hummel. A basic comparison. Professor only gives it 3/5-stars feeling that it is accurate but a little flat in its literary technique.
- *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* (Video). This is the story of the seventh century prophet who changed world history in 23 years, and continues to shape the lives of more than 1.6 billion people. The film takes viewers not only to ancient Middle Eastern sites where Muhammad's story unfolds, but into the homes, mosques and workplaces of some of America's estimated seven million Muslims to discover how they follow Muhammad's example. Professor rated it at 5+++

We have asked him for a good translation of The Holy Koran, but at the date of publication we have not heard back from him

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CORE-COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS



TAPANAMISHRA DAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
INDIRA-SAKHI DEVI DAS, MEMBER, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We hope to be of more service to the ISKCON education community within 2020. In this issue we would like to share with you some of the developments we have undertaken since the last issue.




Staff

First, we would like to welcome our new Office Manager, HG Nrsingha Tirtha Prabhu. He joined the team

in December 2019. Prabhu is based in Sridham Mayapur and also takes care of the Vaishnava Care Department offering invaluable assistance to the elderly.

Training

We are also happy to announce that the Instructional Design Training, from HG Urmila Mataji, is now available on the Ministry of Education website



in the Courses section [<https://iskconeducation.org/training-courses>]. This is the first course that the Ministry has produced, as service to our educators community. The course is freely available to the devotees registered at the Ministry website. We request and encourage all devotees to take advantage of this course to improve how we design our seminars, courses and training. We hope to develop a couple of more courses within 2020 to serve the devotee community.

Symposium

As of this report, Indira-sakhi devi dasi and I are focusing most our energy in organizing *Viplavah 2020* along with Nrsingha Tirtha Prabhu. We hope to host close to 150+ educators from different parts of the world and over 20 speakers. In our next issue we will share a detailed report on the Symposium.

Technology platform

We request devotees to register on the Ministry website and utilize the resources we are gradually developing for educators and parents. With respect to our technology platform

- We hope to appoint a full time staff to take care of our new web platform, www.iskconeducation.org
- Offer a new completely online Krishna Conscious curriculum for children from reception to grade 9 that has been developed by the **Avanti Schools Trust** in the UK.
- In the next *Viplavah* issue, we will share with you a new strategy for development of our web platform in 2020

- We constantly seek exciting resources and volunteers to develop the online offering at the Ministry and if you can assist then please write to us on viplavah.iskcon@gmail.com

Philosophy of Education

In an attempt to capture to the wisdom garnered by our seasoned educators such as Rasamandala Prabhu, Urmila Mataji, etc. we embarked upon the project of collecting their papers on what should be ISKCON's philosophy of education. We have collected 6 such papers from eminent educators. In 2020, we have re-formed the team to carry this forward. We hope that by Kartik 2020 we will be able to make the papers available. If you have a philosophy of education for ISKCON then write to us.

ILS 2020 Participation


Several devotees associated with the Ministry and its development would be presenting seminars at ILS 2020,

- Atul Krsna Prabhu will speak on the revised standards for Shastric Degrees.
- Srivas Prabhu will speak on Enhancing the Culture of Reading Srila Prabhupada Books Globally
- Indira-sakhi devi dasi and Tapana Mishra dasa will address the Educational Foundation of ISKCON

More on the response from the attendees on these topics will presented in the next issue of *Viplavah*.

Way forward

In the next issue we will share with you the various new projects that we hope to develop in the coming year.



HANUMATPRESAKA SWAMI – CORE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Hare Krsna! We have been working as Managing and Executive Editor for this *Viplavah* for several years now. This is the last year as we are getting too old to function in this capacity. We have also been developing the Sastric Education, especially the Bhakti-sastri etc diplomas. This means traveling and working in North and South America, India and Spain. To this end we are developing a first North American Sastric Studies symposium,

6 June 2020, at ISKCON Houston. Ourselves, Radha-krsna Das, Subra Devi Dasi, Gopi-gita Devi Dasi, Gauranga and Gauranga-darasana Das from **Govardhana Eco-village**, Srivasa Pandita, Hari-lila Das, Nila-mani Das and even more important educators are expected to be there. It will be for students and teachers from “womb to the tomb”, and cover educational administration, teaching and evaluation.

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA AND SEMINARS

2020 ISKCON Global Conference of Devotee Attorneys

By Anuj Ghai, Latham & Watkins; London, United Kingdom



The 2020 ISKCON Global Conference of Devotee Attorneys took place on January 9-12 in Gainesville, Florida. The conference was organized by a senior disciple of Srila Prabhupada, HG Guru Gauranga Das. The conference sessions took place in the beautiful Historic Thomas Centre, now home to the Gainesville Cultural Affairs Division. This was the first such gathering of devotee attorneys in ISKCON and so the Conference generated much excitement and anticipation. The Conference proved to be a great success, attracting over 50 attorneys, legal practitioners and law students from a range of backgrounds and nationalities.

The primary purpose of the Conference was to provide a forum within which devotee attorneys could

meet, interact, and network with each other. The various legal and regulatory challenges that ISKCON has had to face over the past few years demonstrates the importance of making full use of the legal talent and expertise at ISKCON's disposal: the Conference allowed participants to better appreciate the unique legal challenges facing ISKCON and their potential role in helping to confront and address such challenges. One of the consistent themes to emerge from the various sessions was the need for ISKCON to strengthen its legal awareness by being more proactive in seeking sound and timely legal advice and representation. A good example in this respect was provided by Guru Gauranga Das who ISKCON's recourse to the law helped to prevent the sale of the ISKCON-NYC Temple.

From our perspective, one of the most inspiring and distinctive aspects of the Conference was the extraordinary diversity of the participants' backgrounds: it was wonderful to be able to meet and interact with devotee attorneys from all over the world (attendees hailed from the United Kingdom, Russia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Hungary, Lithuania, Brazil, Nigeria, Uganda, Singapore and the United States). It was a truly cosmopolitan gathering very much in line with the truly global nature of Prabhupada's movement. It was particularly inspiring to hear participants recall their own experiences of

having to utilize their legal backgrounds and professional expertise to help their local ISKCON centres navigate different legal and regulatory landscapes.

A particularly attractive feature of the Conference was the range of subject areas covered in the sessions. Speakers, from a variety of backgrounds, covered areas such as: Gita values in faith-based conflict management, the near-sale of the ISKCON NYC Temple; Issues of Child Abuse, and ISKCON's Intellectual Property. We hope that future iterations of the Conference will maintain this broad focus.

Sixth Annual Bhaktivedanta Medical Association Conference

By Dr. Hansa Medley (Srimati Guru-bhakti Devi Dasi)



On January 17-20, 2020 the Bhaktivedanta Medical Association (BMA) held its sixth annual conference and retreat at ISKCON of Houston for the second consecutive year. Based on feedback from 2019, the morning sessions were didactic, with workshops in the afternoons.

Day 1's topics were broad, suitable for a general audience. His Holiness Hanumat Presaka Swami set the tone with the keynote address, "Science, Psyche, and Spirituality: Carl Jung's Encounters with the Philosophy of the Bhagavat." Other presentations included talks on Chinese medicine, Ayurveda, yoga, physician burn-out & a published study on

the effects of *maha-mantra* chanting on heart rate variability.

Day 2, structured to encourage and nourish in-house devotees, featured a keynote on Bhaktivedanta Hospice, Vrindavan, India by His Holiness Giriraj Swami as well as a *japa* workshop with His Holiness Romapada Swami. Panel discussions on mental health, practical applications of Krishna consciousness by devotees & medical students along with Ayurvedic practices for self-care were well received. Interestingly, 20% of the attendees had not had any prior exposure to Krishna consciousness.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

GOLOKA COMMUNITY SCHOOL - NEW GOLOKA, HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA

By Audarya Lila -*Director and Early Childhood Teacher*



Since its beginning in the fall of 2018, Goloka Community School has brought in 23 students ranging from preschool through grade 6. GCS has established morning programs across the school as well as community classes that focus on practical and soft skills in addition to the academic curriculum. Programs such as the Transcendental Trunk or Treat, Devotee Friendsgiving and regular gatherings for the mothers and fathers at GCS have created a strong community and loving mood between the families. GCS is continuing to grow and plans are moving forward for a new school building. Goloka Community School has cre-

ated a safe, educational, and devotional environment for families and is continuing to grow and improve with big plans for the future.

Audarya Lila devi dasi is grateful for the chance to combine her love of nature, children and Krsna in service as a teacher and director of Goloka Community School. Audarya has previously worked as a lead teacher and coordinator at Montessori and Waldorf schools. Prior to receiving her Early Childhood teaching certification Audarya gained a Bachelors of Science in Biology minoring in chemistry and focusing most of her course



work in botany. Her goal was always to share her love of nature with children.

However, after meeting a saintly monk on her college campus she realized there was something even more important to discover and share. Many years later she has a chance to facilitate a program which teaches simple living, high thinking, and love for the Divine. She is eternally grateful to Guru, Gauranga, and that saintly monk for guiding her to this special service.

Parents, Family, Community Involvement in Education

In the past, parent involvement was characterized by volunteers, mostly mothers, assisting in the classroom, chaperoning students, and fundraising. Today, the old model has been replaced with a much more inclusive approach: school-family-community partnerships now in-

clude mothers and fathers, stepparents, grandparents, foster parents, other relatives and caregivers, business leaders and community groups—all participating in goal-oriented activities.





How do parents, families, and communities get involved?

Successful school-parent- community partnerships are not stand-alone projects or add-on programs but are well integrated with the school's overall mission and goals. Research and field- work show that parent-school-partnerships improve schools, strengthen families, build community support, and increase student achievement and success.

How can we engage more stakeholders?

Here are some specific ways that schools can engage more parents, families, and communities in education:



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- Survey educators and families to determine needs, interests, and ideas about partnering.
 - Develop and pass family-friendly policies and laws [i.e., leaves of absence for parents/caregivers to participate in school or education-related activities; flexible scheduling to encourage participation by diverse families.
 - Provide professional development on family and community engagement for school faculties.
 - Offer training for parents and community stakeholders on effective communications and partnering skills.
 - Provide better information on school policies and procedures.
 - Ensure timely access to information, using effective communications tools that address various family structures and are translated into languages that parents/families understand.
 - Hire and train school-community liaisons who know the communities' history, language, and cultural background to contact parents and coordinate activities.
 - Collaborate with higher education institutions to infuse parent, family, and community involvement in education into teacher and administrator preparation programs.
 - Develop an outreach strategy to inform families, businesses, and the community about school and family involvement opportunities, policies, and programs.
 - Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of family involvement programs and activities.



GOSWAMI ACADEMY – HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA

By Subra Devi Dasi – Academy Director

Love our community/ Open House Event

In early February Goswami Academy held a combined ‘Love Our Community’/ Open House Outreach Event. Our dedicated parent committee brainstormed ideas to involve the neighboring businesses. It was a wonderful idea!

Health food stores, yoga and exercise centers, UPS stores, including Iskcon Houston’s Govindas Restaurant, all so generously showered us with gift cards and gift certificates for raffles. In addition, the City of Houston’s Recycling Mascot was present educating and entertaining the attendees both young and



old. The Children's Museum donated two hundred family passes.

As new families walked through the doors, our volunteer grandparents, parents, and community volunteers waited enthusiastically in various rooms of the school to share information about our philosophy, values and creative academ-

ics and caring relationships. It was wonderful as the administrator to observe the culture of 'we are proud of our school' resonate with the families enrolled at Goswami Academy.

We seek your blessings to venture further and collaborate with community stakeholders to take our school to newer heights.



Father volunteer in STEM LAB with Kindergarten Son



Grandparent of Pre-K Student showcasing our school library



Goswami Students with family passes donated by Houston Children's Museum

NIOS (NORTH AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ORIENTAL AND CLASSICAL STUDIES)

By Nitai-gaurasundara Das (Dr. Ravi Singh)

When H. H. Hanumatpresaka Swam approached us in 2013 about starting NIOS we could see that it satisfied a need in ISKCON. Since then, locally in Nashville, Tennessee, and internationally in India, Spain and South America it has organized programs with prominent cultural and educational institutions, such as **National Museum of India**, **National Library of Peru**, and the oldest university in the Western world, **San Marcos University**.

These events continue and symposia are developing in Spain, India, Peru, Argentina, Chile on *Education and the Sacred*. Maharaja has been doing fascinating, ground-braking work with his investigations of Prof. C. G. Jung and the Bhagavata.

Finally, but actually first, NIOS is going into its fourth year of publishing its Inter-cultural Journal, *Solaris*. It has been so successful that now it is moving to become a bi-annually Indexed journal that will make it formally accredited in the highest levels of university education.

Of course, we are struggling and need help in every way. Contact Maharaja personally or through *Viplavah* and visit our burgeoning website at www.NiosNimbus.org.



REPORTS FROM REGIONAL REPS

NORTH AMERICA

By Balimardana Das – Committee Convener

ISKCON Ministry of Education North America is focusing on the Sastric studies as well as holistic spiritual education for one and all. We have communicated with many temples about our program of *Bhakti Shastri / Bhakti Vaibhav* etc. ISKCON Dallas, Seattle and many more temples are currently looking at opening approved centers. We are in the process of their

evaluation based on the Ministry **Board of Examiners (BOEX)** requirements.

MOE North America will be exploring a Webinar series after Gaura Purnima. This will enable the broader community to understand the values of spiritual education at an early age.

If you want to extend your help in these areas, please feel free to reach out to us at balimardana@gmail.com.

PERU, BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Gandharva dasa

This has been a year of hard transformations. Before growing up, I have suggested ordering existing programs and results are starting to pay off. I carry out my service in the temple of ISKCON Chosica (the only temple of Radha Krsna in South America) and I have made it the center of operations of the representation of the Ministry.

ISKCON Chosica:

Introduction to Bhakti yoga (Bhakta course) is being standardized for all temples. For this, a study guide is being prepared that can be used in each place, the idea is to introduce this guide in provincial cities and in Bolivia and Ecuador. I have asked the Board of Examiners to establish a *Bhakti Sastri* and *Bhakti*

Vaibhava certification center in ISKCON Chosica. The procedures are ongoing and I hope that we will be granted approval for the mid next year at most. *Sunday school* program is being developed in the temple of Chosica with the participation and management of parents and supported by teachers. Kids are busy and enthusiastic.

ISKCON San Borja:

We will collaborate with the preaching center of San Borja in the development of its educational program. It is a new space and they are starting to attract people to their programs, so it's time to cooperate with them. For now they will implement *Bhakti Sastri and Disciples* course online.

ISKCON Arequipa:

We are in contact with the preaching center of Arequipa and educational programs are already being organized on practical topics at their request (kirtan, deity and festivals cooking, home worship, Vaisnava etiquette, ayurveda, slokas learning). Next year I will contact the other centers to evaluate their situation.

ISKCON La Paz (Bolivia):

I have travelled to Bolivia in June with the purpose of contacting educators and knowing their situation in order to collaborate with the development of their programs. They have received educational material (guidelines, formats, courses). The devotees have appointed local representatives in La Paz and Cochabamba. In 2020 we will begin using this standardized material for the Introduction to Bhakti Yoga course for new devotees who aspire to be initiated.

ISKCON Guayaquil (Ecuador):

The temple authorities are very interested in developing the Bhak Sastri program. I have already had a conversation with the teacher and he has received the support material. In the next days we will talk about the possibility of developing the Bhakta Course as well.

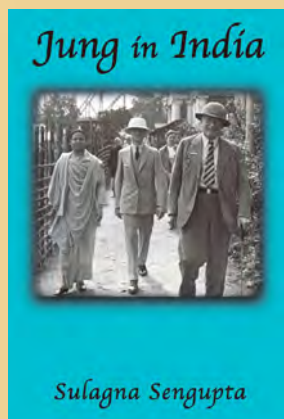
Devotees in this region are eager to know, to learn and to participate in the growth of Srila Prabhupada's movement. One year after starting this service, I am better understanding what it is. The scenarios and the people involved are very different but it is time to find the similarity points and common motivations that move us towards the same goal. I ask Sri Sri Radha Madana Vihari to grant me a minimum of clarity to continue my service. I pray to the devotees their blessings, too.



BOOKS ARE THE BASIS

With this issue we are inaugurating **Books Are The Basis**. We will include reviews and news of new releases of books useful for educators and students in ISKCON. We have also heard that Srila Prabhupada commented that the library is the heart of the educational institution, so help us to design this section and fill it up.

JUNG IN INDIA, Sulagna Sengupta, Spring Journal, Inc, (2013).



Based on archival research, *Jung in India* is an account of Carl Jung's relationship with India spanning several decades. It includes amazing details of his visit in 1937-38. Considering Srila A. C. Bhakivedanta Swami Prabhupada's commentary in *Dialectical Spiritualism* that among all the Western philosophers he had

reviewed Carl Jung had the most sense, we find an excellent resource for His Divine Grace's followers. Jung was born one year after Srila Bhaktsiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura and as this book shows, he and his followers were rigorous scholars, practitioners and

historians of the material they researched. Sengupta offers us an incredible view of what India looked like in 1937 to the best Western psychologist and philosopher. It gives us insight into the character and perspective of Jung's myriad of followers in the 21st century and as Sulagna Sengupta says in the concluding chapter, Chapter Seven:

After three decades of exchanges with various Indian scholars, Jung was certain that the philosophical approach of India was not similar to his psychology, and unless relative merits of both disciplines were understood and assimilated, a fruitful dialog would not emerge with the East. He remained hopeful that the introspective attitude of the East would yield a fuller understanding of the psyche, complementing the one-sided, objective psychology of the West, and that the two streams would one day reach a plane of shared understanding and affinity.

BHAGAVATA PRAVAHA by Gauranga Darshan Das



Presents a Quick Overview of the Bhagavatam's stories, Philosophy and Wisdom. Its a Concise and Simplified Summary of Srimad Bhagavatam with Life Lessons.

With its concise narration, simplified summary, practical wisdom and enchanting illustrations, Bhagavata Pravaha by Gauranga Darshan Das serves as an "easy start for young and new readers" and an "enlivening revision for the seasoned readers" of Srimad Bhagavatam.

Amazon Purchase link: https://www.amazon.in/BHAGAVATA-PRAVAHA-Pristine-Srimad-Bhagavatam/dp/9381283729/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=bhagavata+pravaha&qid=1583332102&sr=8-1

Tulsi Books Purchase link: <https://www.tulsi-books.com/product/bhagavata-pravaha-the-pristine-flow-of-srimad-bhagavatam/>

<http://www.vidyapitha.in/pradipika-articles/bhagavata-pravaha-the-pristine-flow-of-srimad-bhagavatam/>

LATIN AMERICAN EDUCATORS

HEREDANDO NUESTRA CULTURA ESPIRITUAL - PRINCIPIOS BÁSICOS PARA LA FORMACIÓN DE PEQUEÑOS VAISNAVAS

S.g. Janaki D.D. y S.g. Paramesvara D. – Santiago, Chile

Sadhana, el mejor legado!

La vida familiar está llena de ocupaciones y deberes, el costo de la vida sobre todo en las ciudades es cada vez más alto y eso nos hace ir a un ritmo muy acelerado. Intentar llevar un sadhana antes de que nos hiciéramos padres sin duda fue una tarea más simple, sin embargo, ahora tenemos una motivación quizá mucho más fuerte y es la de *compartir la Conciencia de Krsna* con estos pequeños de Vaikuntha, Srila Prabhupada nos aconseja a los padres: **“Ahora, uds, esposo y esposa, deben trabajar juntos con gran responsabilidad para criar a su nuevo hijo de forma ideal en conciencia de Krishna. Los niños aprenden por imitación de los padres, por lo que, si ambos establecen el ejemplo consciente de Krishna, el niño de forma muy natural los seguirá y fácilmente avanzará en la conciencia de Krishna”**-Carta a Jagadisha dasa, Julio 9, 1970-

Debemos trabajar y esforzarnos por establecer un ejemplo adecuado, una muy buena fórmula que podemos aplicar es *achar-conducta + prachar-enseñanza*, el ejemplo es nuestra mejor herramienta. Una frase de madre Urmila que lo explica muy bien es esta: **“Los niños aprenden más a través de la experiencia que de los conceptos, así sabrán más sobre la espiritualidad por lo que somos que por lo que decimos”**. Visto desde nuestra experiencia práctica intentar ser ejemplar al criar niños en Conciencia de Krsna representa un grado de dificultad alto, sin embargo, muy a menudo, esto se simplifica ya que son ellos con su entusiasmo y su devoción “natural” los que hacen de ejemplo a seguir para nosotros, ellos se vuelven nuestra inspiración para ser cada día mejores y se forma una simbiosis; una relación de ayuda o apoyo para beneficiarnos mutuamente en nuestro progreso espiritual, pero no debemos olvidar que somos nosotros quienes lideramos, establecemos el orden y las pautas en todo ámbito.



En los primeros años los pequeños necesitan ayuda para despertarlos, bañarlos y vestirlos para que estén listos para el programa matutino, además de una buena dosis de motivación y entusiasmo, no se trata de obligarlos a participar.

Estableciendo un Sadhana apto para los niños.

Empezar el día recordando a Krsna, cantando sus glorias y sus nombres, viendo y atendiendo sus Deidades es la mejor forma de empezar el día para todos los bhaktas, ¡sin importar la edad! Aunque por supuesto el Sadhana variará según la edad de nuestros hijos, el programa matutino debe ser a una hora en la que ellos estén 100% descansados, eso es muy importante, debemos garantizarles la cantidad de horas que requieran nuestros hijos de acuerdo a la edad, para eso es vital que estén en la cama temprano, levantarse temprano dice Srila Prabhupada es la única austeridad que deben hacer los niños.

Aratik Matutino

Quizá implementar Mangal artik cuando los niños están muy pequeños sea muy difícil, entonces podemos partir con Govinda, dependiendo de la edad, ellos participaran escuchando, cantando y contemplando (darshan) y, también, con la edad suficiente, les encantará poder hacer la puja.

Lectura del Srimad Bhagavatam

La lectura del Srimad Bhagavatam en un comienzo podría ser de unos 10-15 min aprox. (sólo lectura), ya que los niños tienen periodos cortos de concentración, el canto preliminar puede ajustarse corto o más largo de acuerdo a la inspiración y el tiempo que tengamos, conforme hayan despertado el gusto por escuchar, serán los mismos niños quienes irán pidiendo cada vez más. Las recomendaciones de madre Aruddha quien educó a sus hijos en casa basándose en el Srimad Bhagavatam, es no partir por el primer canto, sino empezar leyendo los pasatiempos como el de Dhruva Maharaja, Prahlada Maharaja, la historia de Gajendra, la historia de Indra y Vritasura y así atraerlos, encantarlos con el Srimad Bhagavatam y entonces volver a comenzar desde el primer canto.

El canto de japa

En casa debe haber un momento del día en que podamos sentarnos con los niños a cantar japa, ojalá como parte del programa matutino, podemos cantar al menos una ronda, tratando en lo posible de minimizar las distracciones. Una buena idea es hacer una japa especial para los pequeños con 64 o 27 cuentas, así no es una meta tan lejana cantar toda una ronda, en la medida que vayan creciendo llegaran a una ronda estándar de 108 cuentas.






Enseñarles a cantar japa a nuestros hijos es una oportunidad y una invitación para mejorar nuestro propio canto. En palabras de madre Aruddha “Los niños pequeños que son alentados de forma positiva, aprenderán a cantar japa por imitación a los adultos que los rodean”

Claramente es un desafío poder realizar el programa antes de ir al colegio/trabajo, para esto debemos ser pacientes cuando comenzamos y organizar bien nuestros tiempos; además cada parte del programa matutino se puede simplificar para ojalá llegar a establecerlo todos los días, así crearemos uno de los mejores hábitos que les podemos regalar a nuestros hijos y por supuesto, ¡nos beneficiaremos todos al empezar el día en familia recordando a Krsna!

Motivándonos en comunidad para priorizar a los niños y su educación espiritual.

Nosotros siempre hemos educado a nuestros hijos en casa (Homeschool), pero fue sólo hace unos años



que nos dimos cuenta que lo más relevante dentro de su educación era entregar Conciencia de Krsna y definir eso nos cambió la vida. Buscamos refugio en las enseñanzas que nos dejó Srila Prabhupada acerca de la educación y crianza de pequeños vaisnavas y por supuesto, también en madre Aruddha pionera en homeschool. En septiembre del año pasado (2018) viendo que a nuestros niños les faltaba más instancias de juego con otros niños devotos, y que podíamos usar las habilidades y conocimientos pedagógicos en servicio, decidimos organizar una actividad lúdica en un parque, pensando en que todos los niños pudieran divertirse con actividades conscientes de Krsna, la verdad es que fue todo un éxito, hubo juegos de preguntas, circuitos con obstáculos, ¡kirtana y prasada! Fuimos 50 vaisnavas aproximadamente entre padres y niños.

Fue tan inspirarte para nosotros que ese mismo día en la noche, evaluando la actividad, se nos vino a la mente un proyecto educativo tipo escuelita pensando en fomentar el desarrollo de lazos de amistad sanos que potencien la vida espiritual, y también como una alternativa de educación académica que no vaya en detrimento de sus valores vaisnavas.

Este año 2019, empezamos el proyecto en nuestra casa, literalmente abrimos las puertas de nuestro hogar, habilitamos un espacio para que funcionara como sala de clases, la metodología que usamos es una mezcla de homeschool con escuelita rural multigrado, en Chile es legal educar sin escolarizar, el mineduc brinda muchas facilidades, una de ellas es que los niños rinden exámenes de forma anual.

Aparte de nuestros dos hijos mayores, se sumaron dos niños más, ha sido una experiencia maravillosamente enriquecedora que les ha permitido a los chicos compartir juegos, citas de las escrituras y pasatiempos con conceptos de Aritmética, Lectoescritura, Historia, Ciencia y mucho kirtana.

Proyecto educativo Vaisnava, Escuelita Naimisaranya 2020

Para el 2020 queremos continuar con nuestro proyecto educativo de servicio a la comunidad vaisnava de nuestro yatra, llevamos varios meses trabajando con una jornada escolar de pocas horas, algunos días a la semana, hemos aprendido muchísimo, sobre todo ha sido muy significativo ver como de forma gradual ha ido despertando el interés y la receptividad de los niños por tópicos espirituales y eso ha sido muy inspirante, así que pensando en tener más tiempo para trabajar con contenidos curriculares y devocionales, aumentaremos las horas de la jornada escolar que irá de lunes a viernes, seguiremos esforzándonos y con la bendiciones de nuestro Maestro Espiritual Bhakti-bhusana Swami daremos lo mejor de nosotros para intentar contribuir en la educación de la nueva generación de vaisnavas como un servicio a la misión de Srila Prabhupada.

Nuestras comunidades necesitan espacios y proyectos para que los niños puedan aprender y fortalecer las bases de nuestra Cultura Espiritual, y si bien es un servicio de alto compromiso y lleno de desafíos y de esfuerzos, debemos ser visionarios y dar el lugar que corresponde a la formación de estos preciados tesoros que hemos recibido de Krsna.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2020 June 5-7, Houston, Texas, 1st Annual North American Sastra Sammela, Contact H. H Hanumat-presaka Swami, H. G. Radha-krsna Das, H. G. Balimardana Das or H. G. Subra Devi Dasi for more details.

NEXT ISSUE

Indira-sakhi Devi Dasi has asked to be the Managing Editor but by the time we went to press she was not able to send in a prospectus for the next issue. Let us comment with a little smile, that if everyone who has said in this issue that they will be sending more news in the next issue it should be wonderful.

